

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY: NEA:AGRIFFIN:HLK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

SECRET STATE 031652

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 689 ACTION SECSTATE INFO JIDDA

TEHRAN RABAT 09 FB

QUOTE

SECRET AMMAN 0689

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, MO, US

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR MOROCCO

REF: AMMAN 687, AMMAN 688 (NOTAL)

1. KING AND LATER RIFAI WERE BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME
LATE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 8 ABOUT ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO.

2. BOTH REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF
REPLACEMENT FOR THEIR F-5A'S WITH MOROCCAN DELEGATION HERE.
RIFAI SAID MOROCCANS HAVE TOLD JORDANIANS THAT THEY WOULD
AGREE TO REPLACE JORDANIAN F-5A'S ON A ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS

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FROM F-5E'S NOW OR EXPECTED SOON TO BE ON ORDER FOR

MOROCCO IN US FMS PROGRAM. NEIGHER KING NOR RIFAI
KNEW WHETHER PROGRAM IS FMS CASH OR CREDIT. RIFAI
HAD SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS. HE SAID MOROCCANS EXPECTED
DELIVERY OF FIRST OF THEIR AIRCRAFT IN 15 TO 18 MONTHS
AND THAT THEY AGREED TO TURN OVER THESE F-5E'S TO JORDAN
AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, UNTIL JORDANIAN F-5A'S FULLY
REPLACED. KING AND RIFAI ASKED ME TO CONFIRM FOR THEM ARRANGEMENTS
FOR MOROCCAN AIRCRAFT ACQUISITION, AND FOR USG TO EXPEDITE
PERMISSION TO TRANSFER JORDANIAN F-5A'S. APPARENTLY
MOROCCAN DELEGATION HERE MAKES POINT THAT IT IS
DESPERATE FOR AIRCRAFT AND WOULD LIKE TO MOVE AS RAPIDLY
AS POSSIBLE.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS NORMALLY A NOTIFICATION
PERIOD FOR PLACING BEFORE CONGRESS PROPOSALS TO AGREE TO
TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT AND THAT PERIOD IS POSSIBLY TEN DAYS.
WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF DEPARMENT WOULD ADDRESS THIS ISSUE
IN ANY REPLY TO KING TOGETHER WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF
EXPEDITING THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFER PERMISSION INCLUDING
THE POSSIBILITY OF A WAIVER FOR ANY REQUIRED WAITING PERIOD.
JORDANIANS OBVIOUSLY FEEL THEIR INITIAL BURST OF GENEROSITY
HAS NETTED THEM AN EXCELLENT DEAL AND THEY ARE MOST
ANXIOUS TO FOLLOW UP QUICKLY.
PICKERING UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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